around the Defence Research Development Laboratories in Kanchanbagh to an alternate site;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to assist the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Union Government has requested intervention of the Andhra Pradesh Government to issue instructions for clearing an area of 100 meters in width around Defence Research Development Laboratory in Kanchanbagh from inhabitation for security reasons.

(c) No specific proposal for assistance in this regard has been received from the State Government so far.

Missiles Impaired during repair

†1112. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Murammat main laparwahi se 28 missilen bekar' published in 'Dainik Jagran' of New Delhi dated the 2nd June, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action so far against the erring officials?

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e) The facts quoted in the news item pertain to Strella—2M category of Missile. A total of 1145 Missiles of this category were procured between 1977 and 1988 in various lots. Out of these, only 28 missiles of lots procured in 1978 and 1982 failed in the first 12-13 years of shelf life. In-house efforts were made to repair these missiles. These efforts did not succeed, due to lack of technical

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

know-how, which had not been procured along with the main equipment, being a one time buy. Repair by Russian experts was not considered economical and therefore, not resorted to.

Since adequate efforts were made to repair the missiles, no action is warranted against any official.

(c)and (d) Do not arise in view of answer at (b) and (e).

Procurement of TFCS from Yugoslavia

1113. SHRI KHANGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had entered into a contract with Yugoslavia for procurement of Thermal Fire Control System (TFCS) by paying advance of Rs. 27.63 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that this system was never delivered; and

(c) why sufficient safeguards were not taken in the form of Bank Guarantee or other to ensure that the advance account does not go waste?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Due to the UN Security Council ban on Trade with Yugoslavia under Article 724, the system was not delivered by the vendor.

(c) Sufficient safeguards were provided in the contract by incorporating a clause for the vendor to provide a Bank Guarantee to cover the advance payment. Subsequently, efforts were made to invoke the Bank Guarantee in consultation with Legal Adviser and MEA but these efforts failed to recover the advance payment.

Shortfall in performance of MIG-29

1114. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG Audit has observed that there is 64.58 per cent shortfall in performance of MIG-29 aircraft;

(b) whether it is a fact that 74 per cent of MIG-29 engines costing Rs. 326 crores failed pre-maturely and had to be withdrawn; and